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BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 10-13 April 1, 2010

- **Nearly 8,600 victims of violence in BC were children and youth in 2008**
- **Room revenue in BC falls 11.0% in December**
- **BC's food services and drinking places industry sees revenues rise 1.5% in January**

Crime

- **In 2008, police services in British Columbia recorded nearly 8,600 incidents of violent crime against children and youths (under 18 years of age) in 2008[1].** The resulting violent crime rate was 1,100 per 100,000, virtually identical to the national rate (1,111 per 100,000). Among BC's three largest metropolitan areas, Victoria's rate (1,015 per 100,000) was the highest, followed by Vancouver (948 per 100,000) and Abbotsford-Mission (914 per 100,000).

  Data Source: SC Cat. no. 85F0033M, no. 23

- **Over 75,000 Canadian children and youth were victims of police-reported violent crime in 2008.** This translated to a rate of 1,111 victims per 100,000 children and youth in Canada. As children and youth age, the rate of violent crime tends to increase with the lowest rate of violent crime reported for children under the age of 3 years (162 per 100,000) and the highest rate reported for youth aged 15 to 17 years (2,710 per 100,000).

  The most prevalent (56%) types of police-reported violent crimes against young people were physical assaults. Most (76%) assaults fell into the least severe category (level 1). However, just over one-fifth (22%) were victims of assault with a weapon or assault resulting in bodily harm. Roughly 1% of cases, representing 422 victims, were related to the most severe category of assault. The accused perpetrator of a physical assault against a child or youth varied greatly with the age of the victim. Parents were most of often (85%) the accused in an assault on infants and young children (under the age of 6). Peers, on the other hand, were the most likely to be accused of an assault against a teenager (43% for 12 to 14 year olds; 44% for 15 to 17 year olds). *Data Source: SC Cat. no. 85F0033M, no. 23*

The Economy

- **Sales for British Columbia's food services and drinking places industry rose 1.5% to $664 million (*seasonally adjusted*) in January.** Nationally, receipts in the industry increase by 0.3% to $4.1 billion, with sales increases posted in Alberta (+2.4%) and Nova Scotia (+1.9%) being mostly offset by declines registered in Ontario (-1.0%) and Manitoba (-0.6%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Room revenues fell (-11.0%, *seasonally adjusted*) in December, almost completely offsetting the November gains of 11.7%.** The previous month's growth stemmed from a major influx of pre-Olympic vacation rental sales (+115.7%) in Mainland/Southwest for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games. As a result, December room revenues in Mainland/Southwest dropped (-17.7%), compared to November's 20.7% growth. Similarly, Vancouver Island/Coast (-2.1%), Thompson/Okanagan (-3.0%), Kootenay (-6.6%) and North Coast (-0.3%) room revenues contracted. Cariboo (+0.3%), Nechako (+2.2%) and Northeast (+5.7%) all saw accommodation sales rise.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

[1] It is important to note that victimization rates for particularly young children almost certainly underestimate the actual rates of incidence as these victims are largely reliant on others, such as adults and older children, to report their victimization.

Report **BC's Food Service and Drinking Places**

Did you know...

During 2010's "Earth Hour", British Columbians reduced electricity consumption by 1.04%.

Data Source: Vancouver Sun

Labour

- **In keeping with past trends, the recent recession saw in drop in the number of paid employees and a swelling of the ranks of the self-employed in Canada.** Between October 2008 and October 2009, the number of self-employed workers jumped 3.9%, representing a net increase of 115,100. This increase, however, masks the substantial level of entry into (284,500) and exit from (169,500) self-employment during this one-year span. The most significant increases in self-employment were seen among older workers (45 years and older), women and those with the least education (high school or less).

  Family status was also a significant factor, with single people and single income married couples being more likely to look to self-employment during the downturn in the economy.

  Provincially, Quebec saw the most significant increase in self-employment levels while Alberta actually had a net decrease in the number of self-employed individuals. While British Columbia[2] saw a net increase (+14,800) in self-employment between October 2008 and October 2009, this change was not considered statistically significant.

  Data Source: SC Cat. no. 75-001-X

Minimum Wage

- **In 2009, roughly 796,000 people, accounting for 5.6% of the total Canadian workforce, worked at or below their province's minimum wage.** This incidence of earning minimum-wage has risen steadily and in each year from the 4.3% level registered in 2005. Although women made up one-half of all employees, they represented just under two-thirds (63%) of minimum-wage workers. This over-representation of women was observable across all age categories. Regardless of sex, young people had the highest likelihood of earning minimum wage at 20.2%.

  Provincially, Newfoundland & Labrador (9.3%), Ontario (7.7%) and Quebec (6.1%) all have incidence rates that well exceed the national average. British Columbia, however, with roughly 41,200 people or just 2.3% of its total workforce working at or below the minimum wage has the second lowest incidence rate in the country. Moreover, and contrary to the national trend, BC's incidence of working at or below the minimum wage has been declining steadily since 2004 from 6.2% to the current level of 2.3%.

  Data Source: SC Cat. no. 75-001-X

The Nation

- **Canada's real gross domestic product advanced 0.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in January, the fifth and largest increase in as many months.** Goods-producing industries such as manufacturing (+1.9%) and construction (+1.7%) set the pace for overall economic growth. Production of services also improved (+0.4%) with increased wholesale (+2.9%) and retail (0.8%) trade overshadowing a significant slide (-6.7%) in real estate agents & broker activity. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **In February, prices received for Canadian-produced goods dipped 0.6% compared to same month last year.** The decrease was led by motor vehicles (-9.8%) and pulp & paper (-9.1%). Prices received for BC softwood lumber fell 1.5%, while BC pulpwood chip prices rose 0.8%. It should be noted that the loonie appreciated considerably (+17.8%) against the American greenback between February 2009 and February 2010. Excluding this exchange effect, overall prices would have risen 3.3% rather than fallen 0.6%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

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[2] Includes Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, but these areas constitute only a tiny fraction of the sample.

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC's Food Service and Drinking Places

Introduction

With the highest density of establishments in the country (244 locations per 100,000 population) and the source of roughly 2% of British Columbia's total economic activity, it is clear that the food services and drinking places industry is an important part of BC's economy. While locals remain responsible for the largest share of business in this industry (about 75% in 2007, with the remainder coming from tourists), it is still a key contributor to the province's tourism sector.

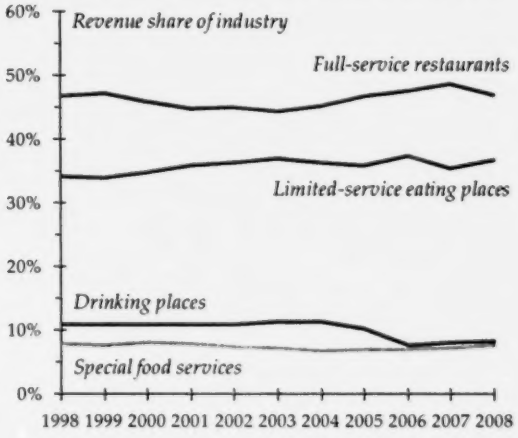
In this month's special focus, BC's food service industry will be examined briefly by looking at how sales and employment have evolved over the past decade and how spending habits by consumers have changed over the years.

Industry composition

The industry can be divided into four main subcategories: full-service restaurants (family and fine-dining restaurants), limited-service eating places (fast food outlets, take-outs and coffee shops), special food services (food service contractors and caterers) and drinking places (bars, pubs and night clubs).

As an indication of market shares, nearly half (47%) of receipts in 2008 came from full-service restaurants and over a third (37%) was attributable to limited-service establishments. The remaining was split evenly between special food services (8%) and drinking places (8%). These shares have remained fairly consistent over the last decade with the exception of drinking places which has seen its share dip slightly from 11% in 1999 to 8% in 2008.

Drinking places has seen their share of industry revenues slip from 11% to 8% over the past decade while the share attributable to limited-service establishments rose from 34% to 37%

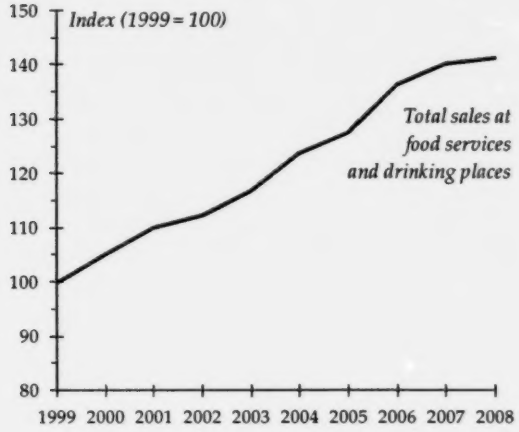


Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Provincial revenue and expenditure

Between 1999 and 2008, total sales by the food services and drinking places industry rose 41.4% to $7.7 billion. In particular, the food services industry (full-service restaurants, limited-service eating places and special food services combined) grew at a similar pace (+45.4%), while drinking places failed to keep up, managing only 8.5% growth.

Total sales at food services and drinking places in BC rose 41.4% between 1999 and 2008



Data Source: Statistics Canada

What was the driving force behind this large increase? Most certainly there has been volume changes in BC (due to population growth and an increase in tourist visits), although the cost of doing business has also increased.

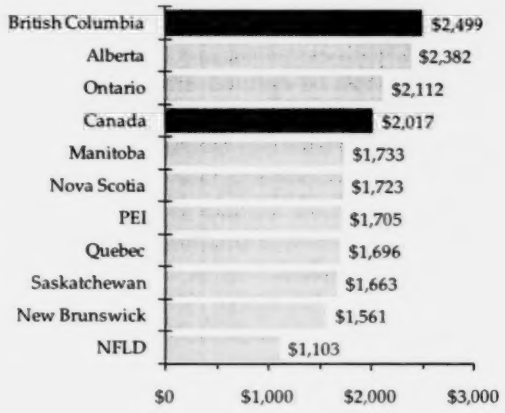
Two elements that contribute heavily (above two-thirds) to business expenditure in this industry is the cost of stock—food and beverage items for sale—and investment in labour through employment. These expenses have been growing also over the last couple of years.

Typically, food and drink being sold at food services and drinking places account for more than a third (36%) of all expenses (sales of merchandise and other revenues made up just 3% of total revenue). The cost of store-purchased food has increased by more than one-tenth (+13.2%) between 1999 and 2007, according to the Consumer Price Index. Wages and salaries, however, accounting for roughly one-third of total costs, rose by almost three times this amount (36.7%) over the period 2001 to 2007[1].

Interestingly enough, this expansion in sales may have been even greater. In fact, proprietors seem to be eating some of the increased costs associated with conducting business in general rather than increasing sale prices and losing clientele[2]. As a consequence, sale prices have been growing slower in order to make "eating out" still affordable.

BC locals are clearly spending more money on food purchases in restaurants. In fact, households in BC spent an average of $2,499 on meals and beverages purchased from restaurants in 2007[3]. This level exceeds the national average ($2,017) by roughly one quarter (24%) and is nearly 5% higher than the average amount spent in Alberta, the province with the next highest household expenditure at restaurants ($2,382).

In 2007, BC households spent far more in restaurants than any other province



Data Source: Statistics Canada - Survey of Household Spending (SHS)

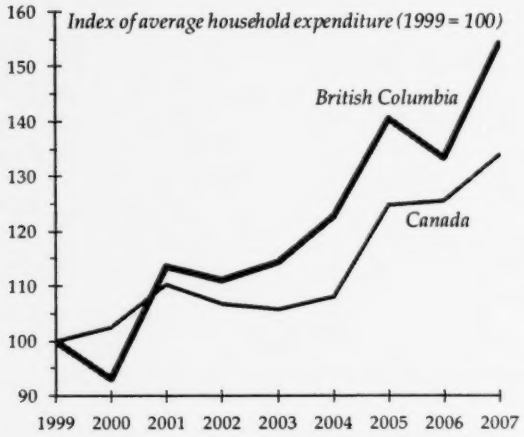
[1] Data via Statistics Canada's *Annual Survey of Service Industries* only covers 2001 to 2007.

[2] The industry's profit margins (the difference between the revenues and expenses expressed as a percentage of revenues) have dipped slightly from 4.9% in 2001 to 4.4% in 2007.

[3] 2007 is the latest year for which data on household spending is available. Data is based on the 2007 *Survey of Household Spending* (SHS).

Moreover, BC's average household spending at restaurants has been higher than the national average since 2001.

Growth in BC's average household spending in restaurants has outpaced the national average



Data Source: Statistics Canada - Survey of Household Spending (SHS)

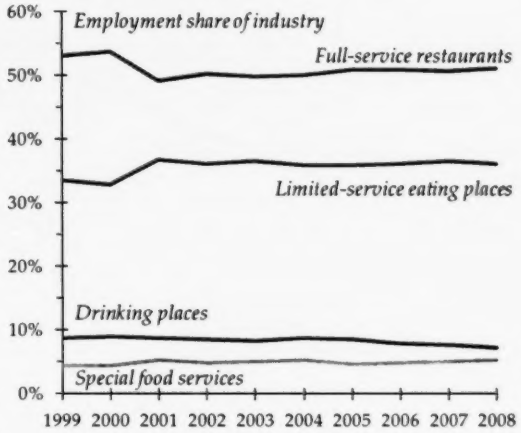
As a percentage of average total food expenditures, British Columbians spent more of their food budget (27% in 2007) on restaurant meals (beverages excluded) than residents of any provinces. In fact, they have been spending more since 2002.

Employment and earnings

In 2008, British Columbia's food service industry was responsible for providing approximately 149,000 jobs[4]. Between 1999 and 2008, employment in the industry rose by more than one-third (+35.3%) and consistently increased from year to year.

At the sub-industry level, full-service restaurants accounted for the largest share of food service jobs, more than half (51%) in 2008. The second largest employer was limited-service eateries with just over one-third (36%) while special food services (5%) and drinking places (7%) each providing relatively fewer jobs.

An exchange of employment shares between full and limited-service restaurants occurred at the turn of the century



Data Source: Statistics Canada

A noticeable shift in employment from full to limited-service restaurants occurred in 2001 as, perhaps, industry demand changed.

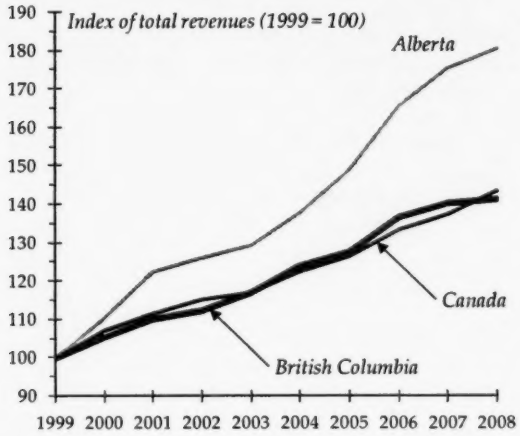
Food service workers earned (not including tips/gratuities, etc.) an average of $295.80 per week in 2008—up 16% from earnings in 1999.

National comparison

Compared to the rest of Canada, British Columbia's food service industry can be said to follow the national trend quite closely. Most other provinces have also seen growth in receipts at or near the national average.

[4] Employment estimates are based on the *Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours* (SEPH).

Revenues in BC's food service and drinking places industry have risen in step with the national average while revenues in Alberta have taken off



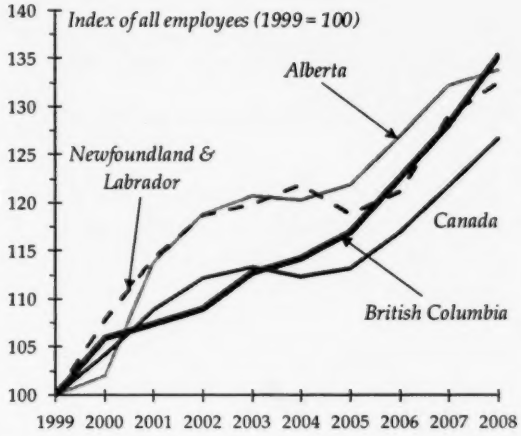
Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Only one province, Prince Edward Island, has experienced a downturn in sales (-1.2%) while proprietors in Alberta have seen a near doubling of revenues (+80.5%).

In 2008, just over 13% of Canadians lived in British Columbia. However, in that same year, BC held more than a 16% share of the nation's food service industry receipts. Looking at the sub-industry level the story is even more interesting as BC's drinking places make up 25% of the total Canadian revenues even though just 13% of the nation's adult population aged 20 years and older lives in BC.

At the national level, employment in food services increased 26.8% between 1999 and 2008. While taking the entire period into account puts British Columbia on top in terms of growth, comparable increases in employment were also registered in Alberta (+33.9%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+32.5%). Indeed, for much of the last decade, employment growth in these two provinces exceeded BC.

Since 2004, the number of jobs in the industry has risen more quickly in BC than the national average



Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Average earnings in BC's food industry were only slightly less than the Canadian average ($299.30) but significantly lower than food service workers in Alberta ($340.07) and Newfoundland and Labrador ($310.63).

Albertan food service workers earn the highest average weekly wage in Canada

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Conclusion

Overall, the food service industry in BC has continued to record increased levels of revenue and employment. Workers in the industry, however, earn comparatively less than their counterparts in both Alberta or Newfoundland and Labrador. That said, British Columbian households tend to spend more on restaurant meals, on average, than they do in any other province.

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan1/2010	% change on one year ago
BC	4,494.2	1.6
Canada	33,930.8	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 9)		
(BC - at market prices)	2008	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	197,931	3.3
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	164,520	0.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	37,529	-1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,931	3.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jan 2010	2,850	4.2
Merchandise Exports - Jan 2010	2,180	0.3
Retail Sales - Jan 2010	4,634	0.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Feb 2010)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.2	-0.1
Vancouver	1.2	0.0
Victoria	1.0	0.0
Canada	1.6	0.4
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Feb 2010	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,482	0.0
Employed - BC	2,290	0.4
Unemployed - BC	192	-4.3
		Jan 2010
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.7	8.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	8.2	8.3
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Mar 13/2010	Apr 1/2009
Prime Business Rate	2.25	2.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.60	4.50
- 5 year	5.85	5.55
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Mar 13/2010	Apr 1/2009
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0156	1.2643
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9844	0.7930
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Feb 2010	one year ago
BC	813.74	2.0
Canada	814.44	2.1

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

British Columbia Wage & Salary Survey

In 2009, the first-ever Wage and Salary Survey was completed by the BC Government. This survey provides up-to-date wage and salary information on part-time and full-time wages, hours of work, hiring difficulties, and vacancies for 121 of the province's most common occupations. In B.C.'s three largest economic regions (Vancouver Island/Coast, Mainland/Southwest, and Thompson/Okanagan), the top 100 occupations were targeted, and in the five remaining regions (Kootenay, Cariboo, North Coast, Nechako, and Northeast), the top 35 occupations were targeted.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/labour/wage/

Historical Census Profiles

We have added 1986 Census Profiles to our site. This series of profiles is for development regions, regional districts, municipalities, and unincorporated areas. Recently we added detailed profiles for development regions, regional districts, municipalities, unincorporated areas and Indian reserves from the 1996 and 1991 censuses. Registration is required for access.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/census.asp

Aboriginal Peoples Profiles - BC

Province-level profiles have been added to this series. These profiles provide comparisons of the socio-economic conditions of the Aboriginal populations as well as profiles of Aboriginal groups such as First Nations, Métis, and Status Indians using data from the 2006 Census.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/abor/ap_main.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, March 2010
- Current Statistics, March 2010

Next week

- Tourism Sector Monitor, March 2010
- Labour Force Statistics, February 2010
- Earnings and Employment Trends, Feb. 2010

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